

Fig. 1

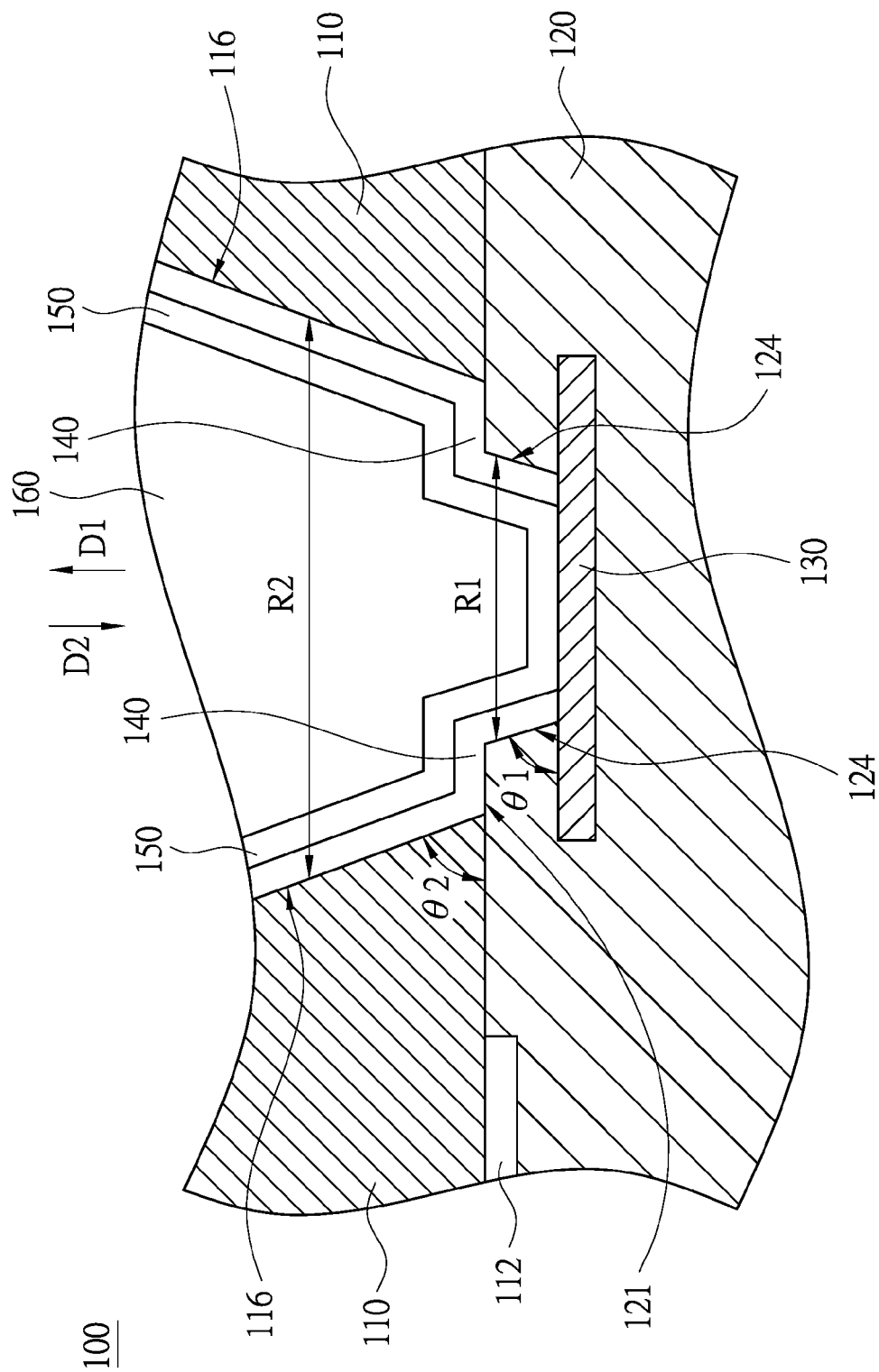


Fig. 2

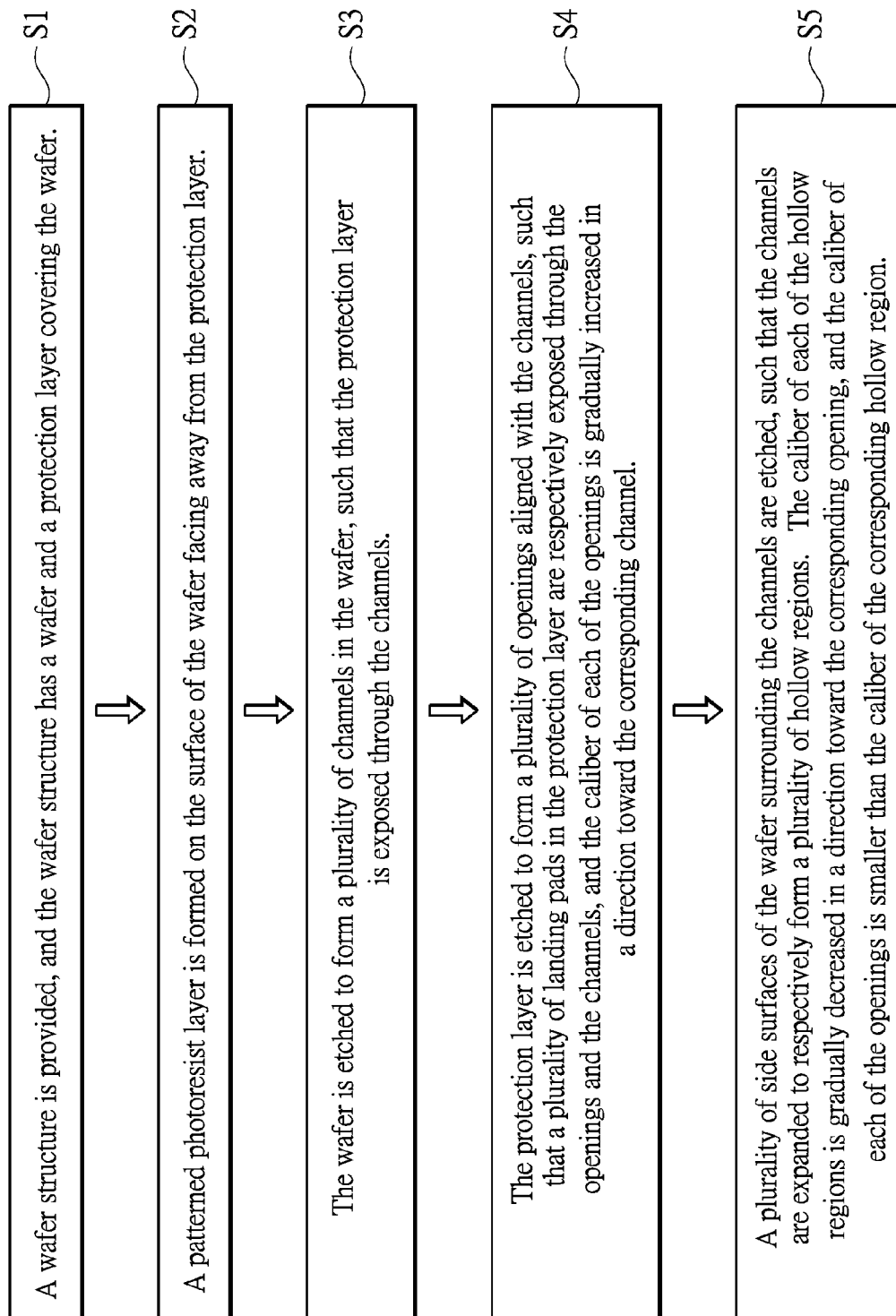


Fig. 3

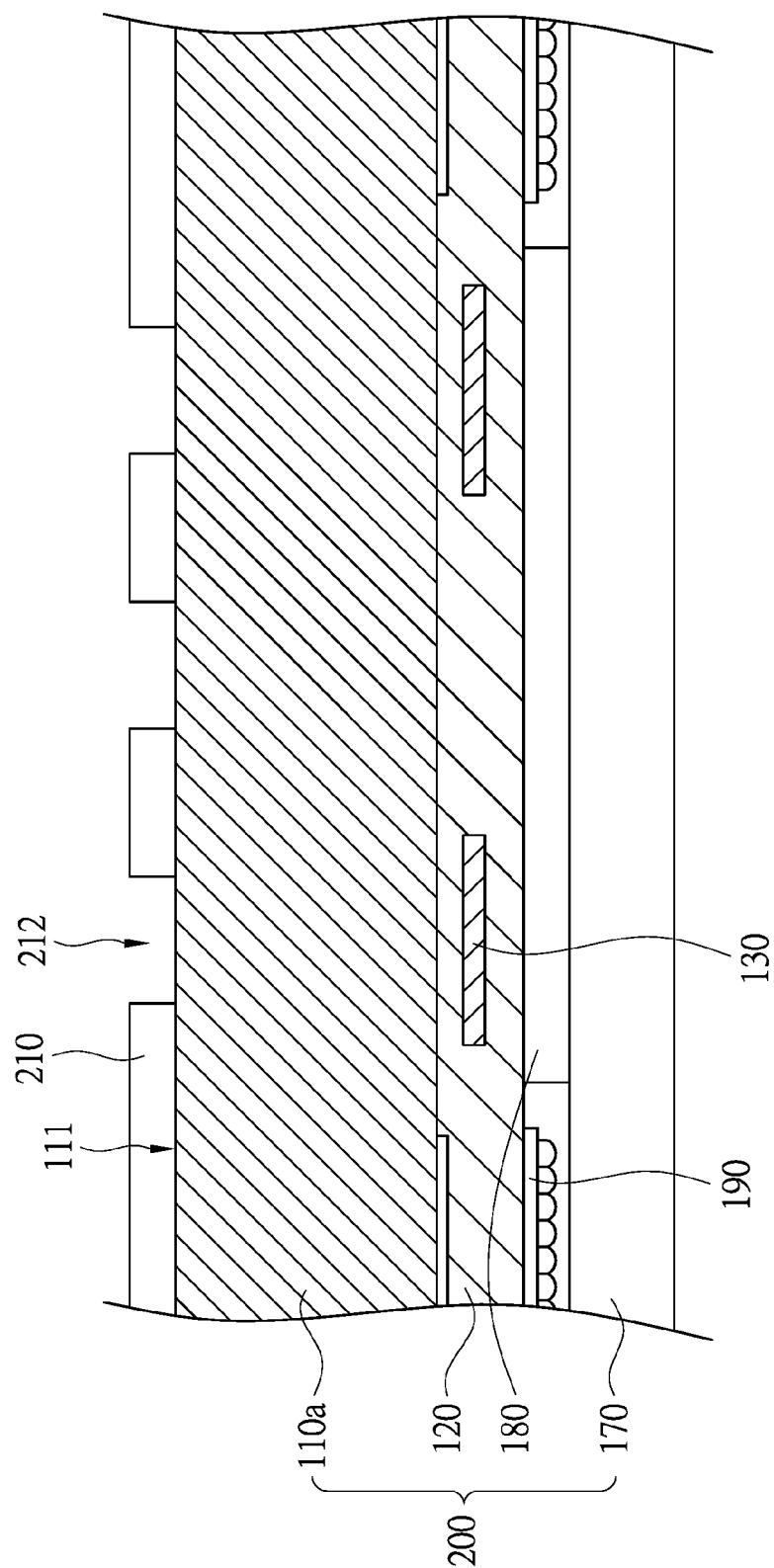


Fig. 4

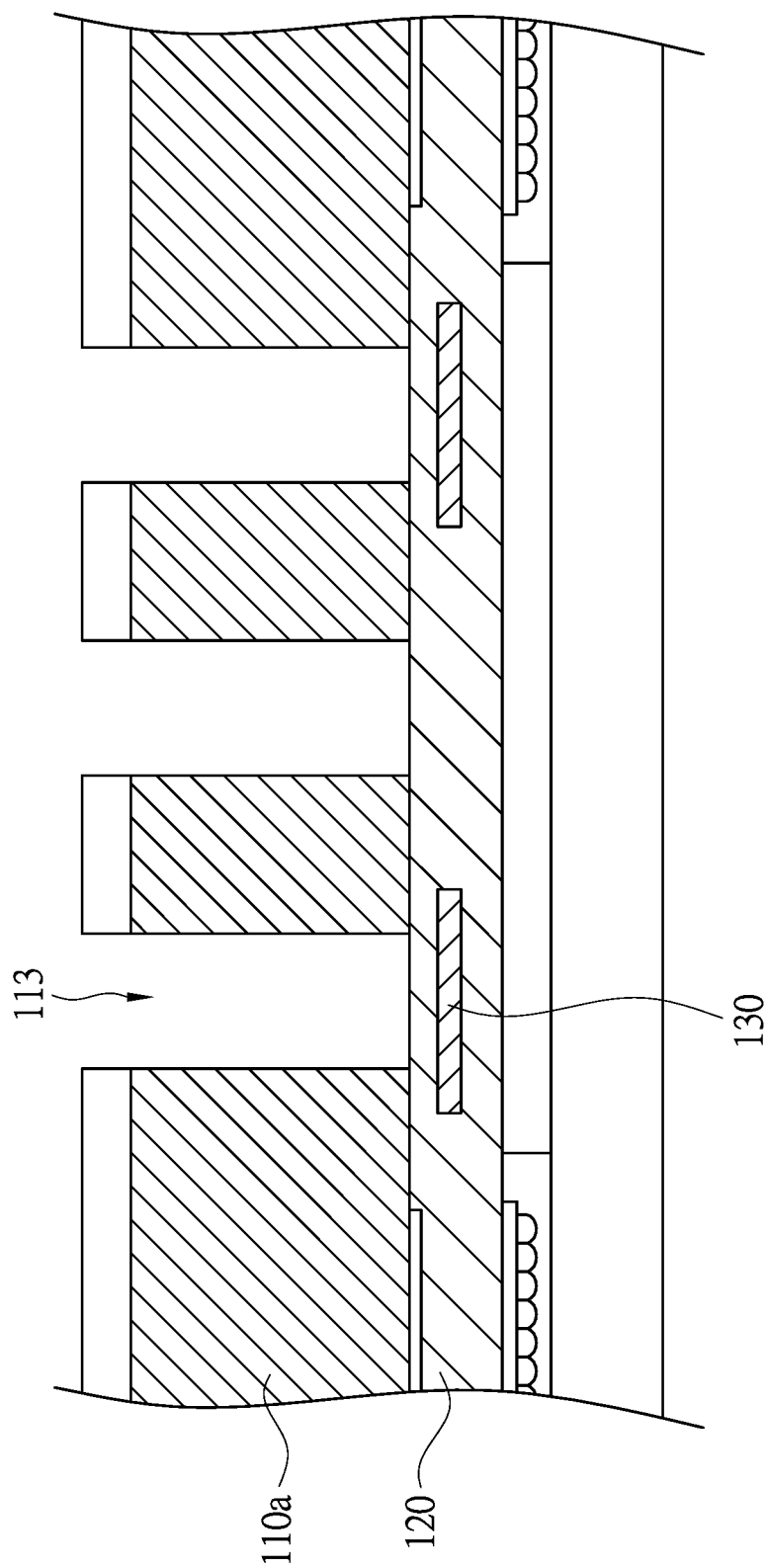


Fig. 5

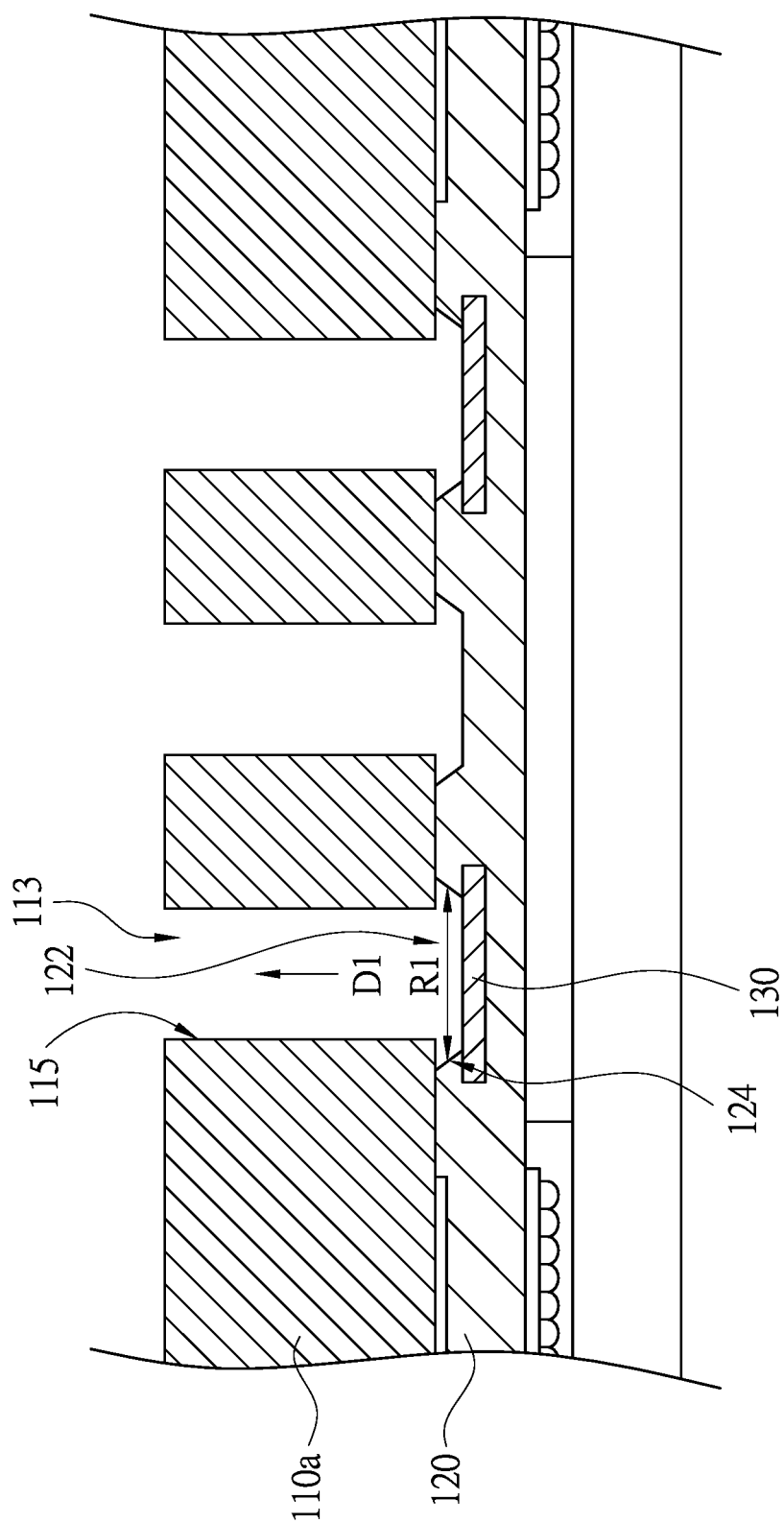


Fig. 6

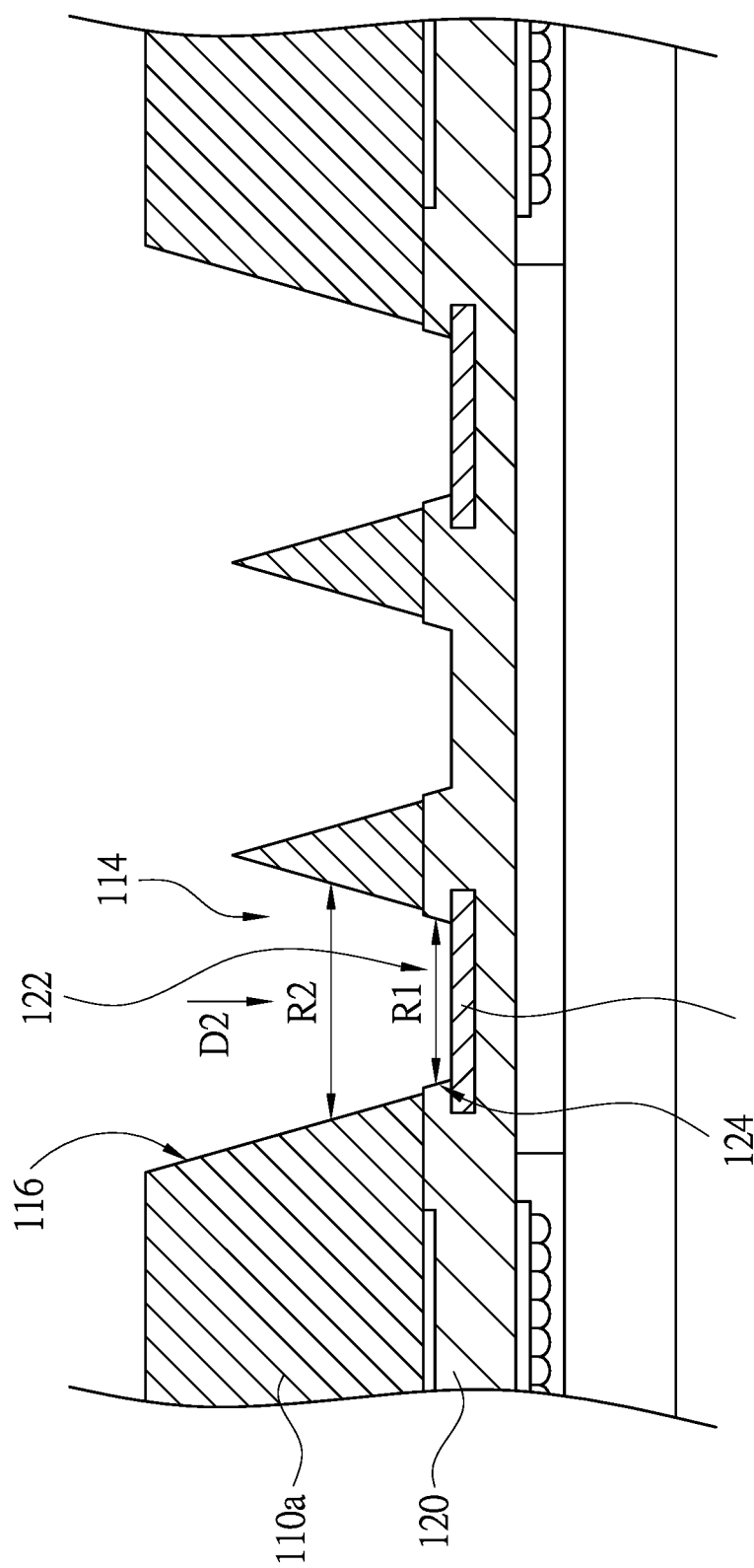


Fig. 7



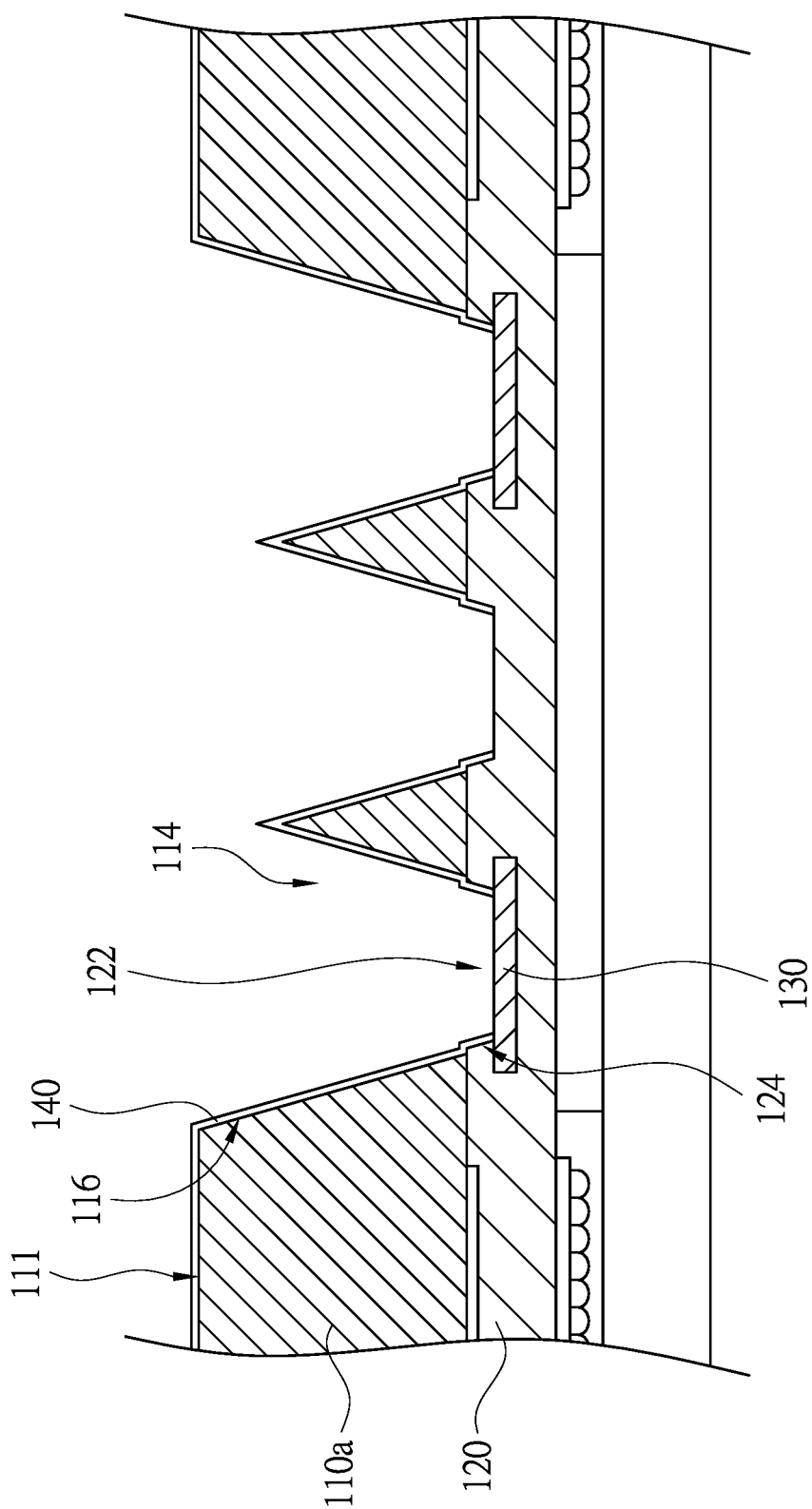


Fig. 8

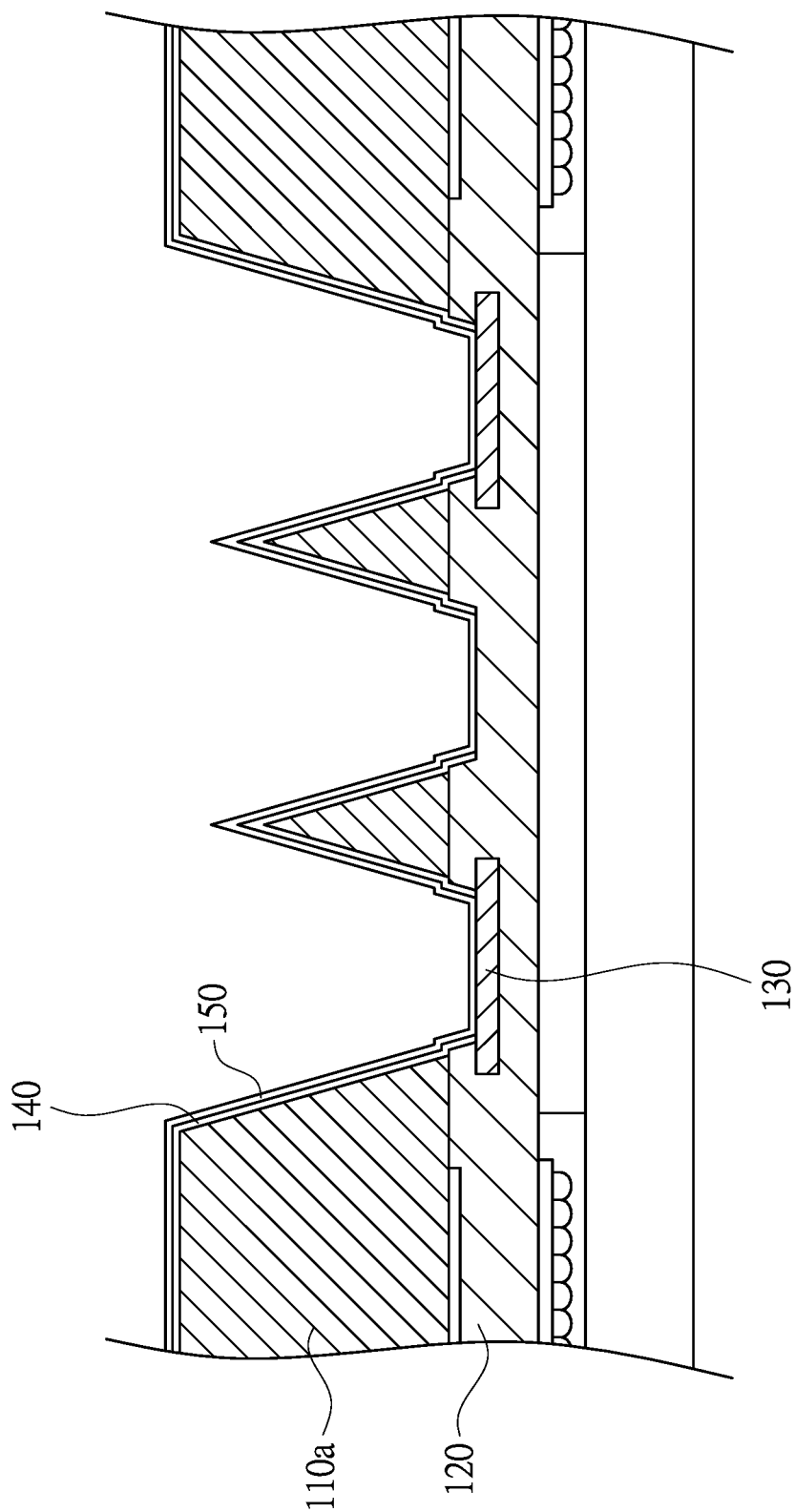


Fig. 9

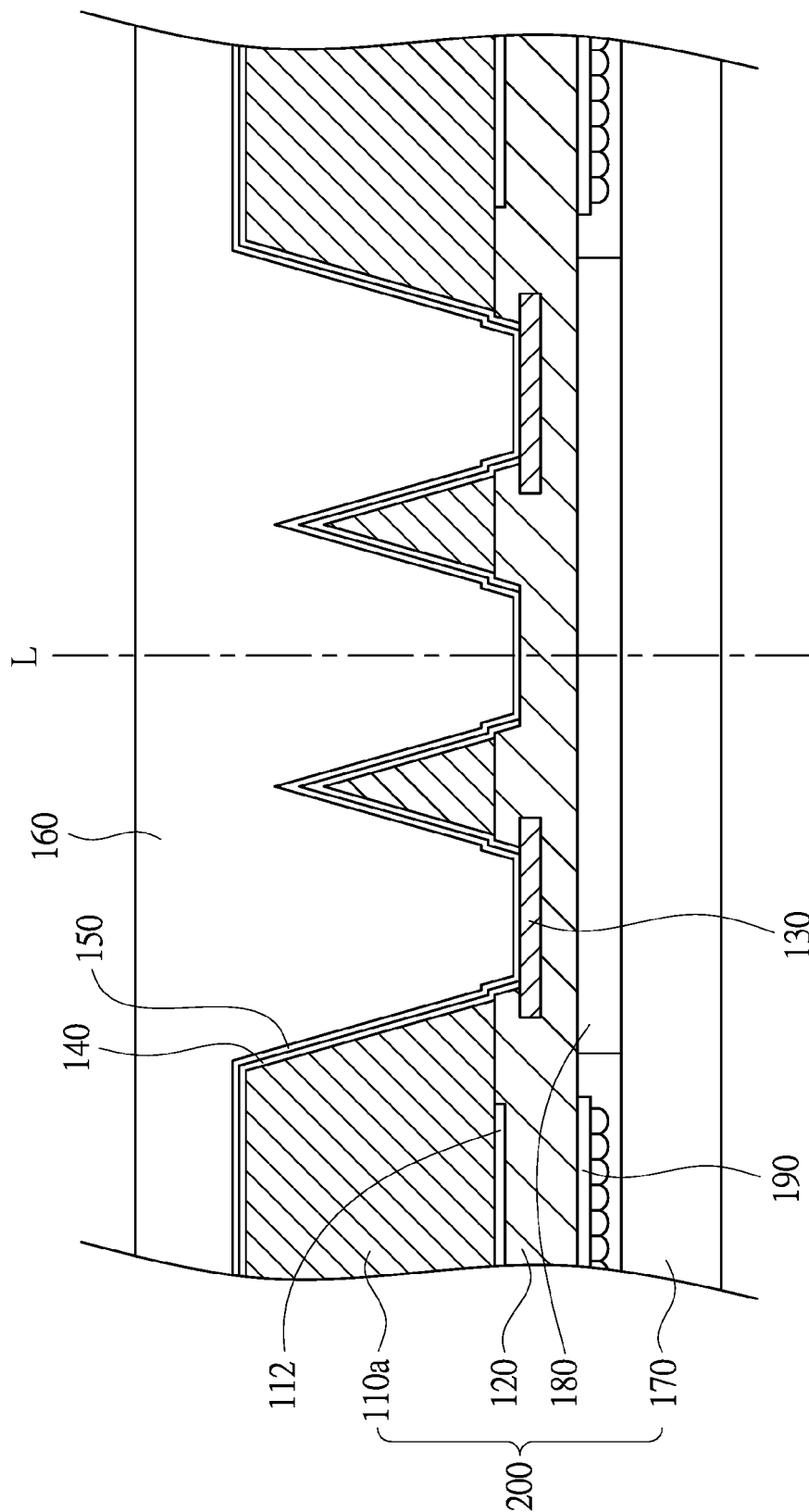


Fig. 10

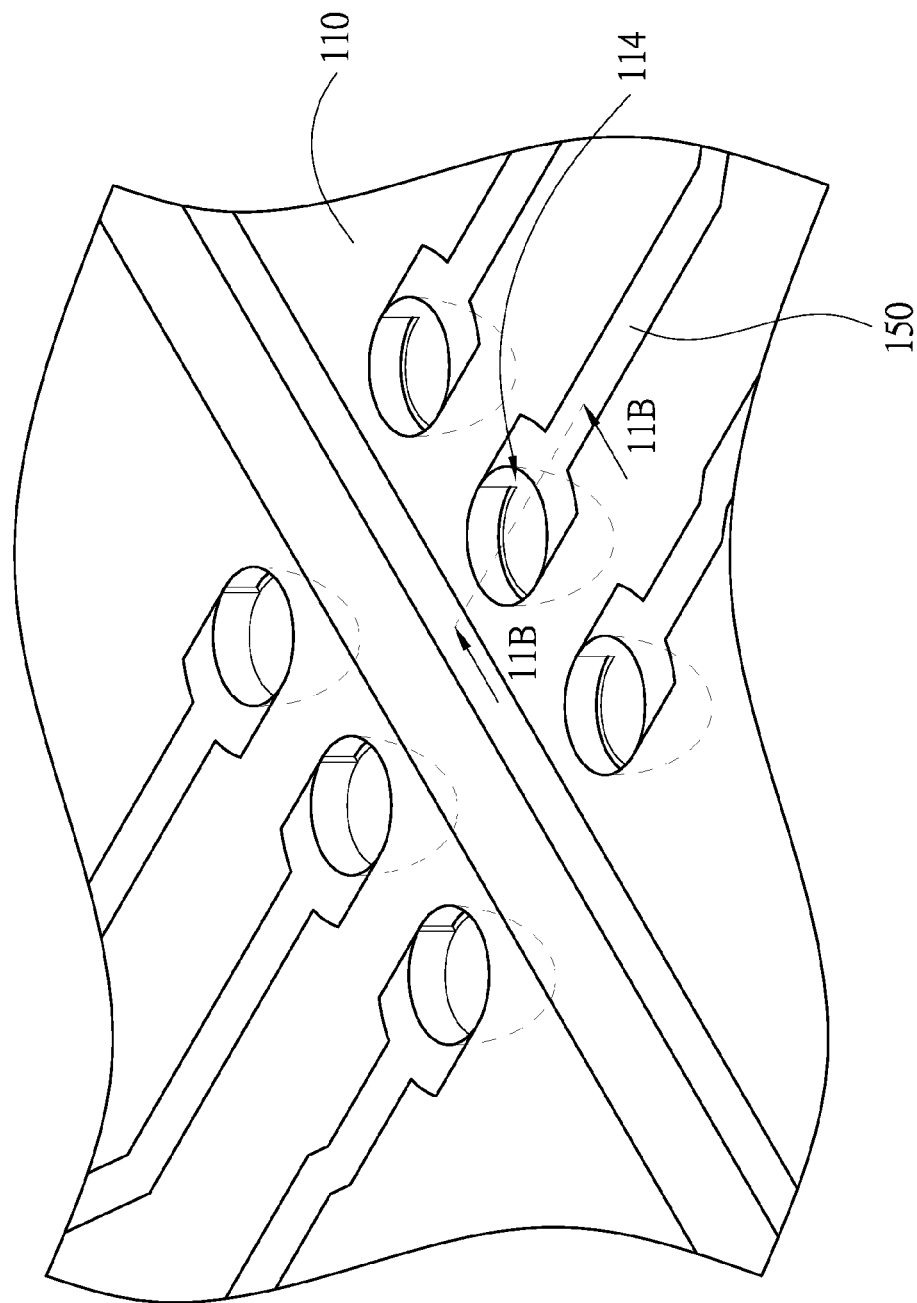


Fig. 11A

100a

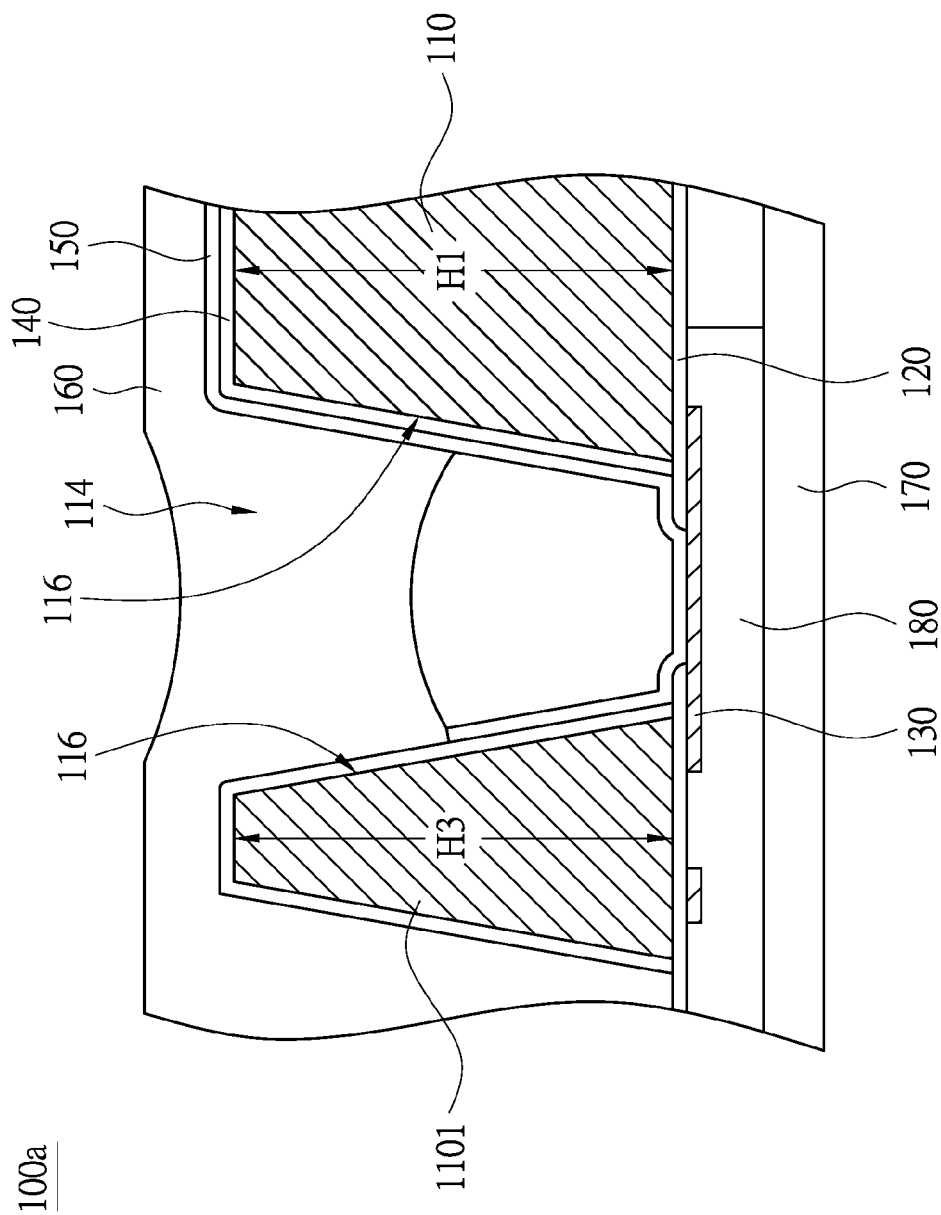


Fig. 11B

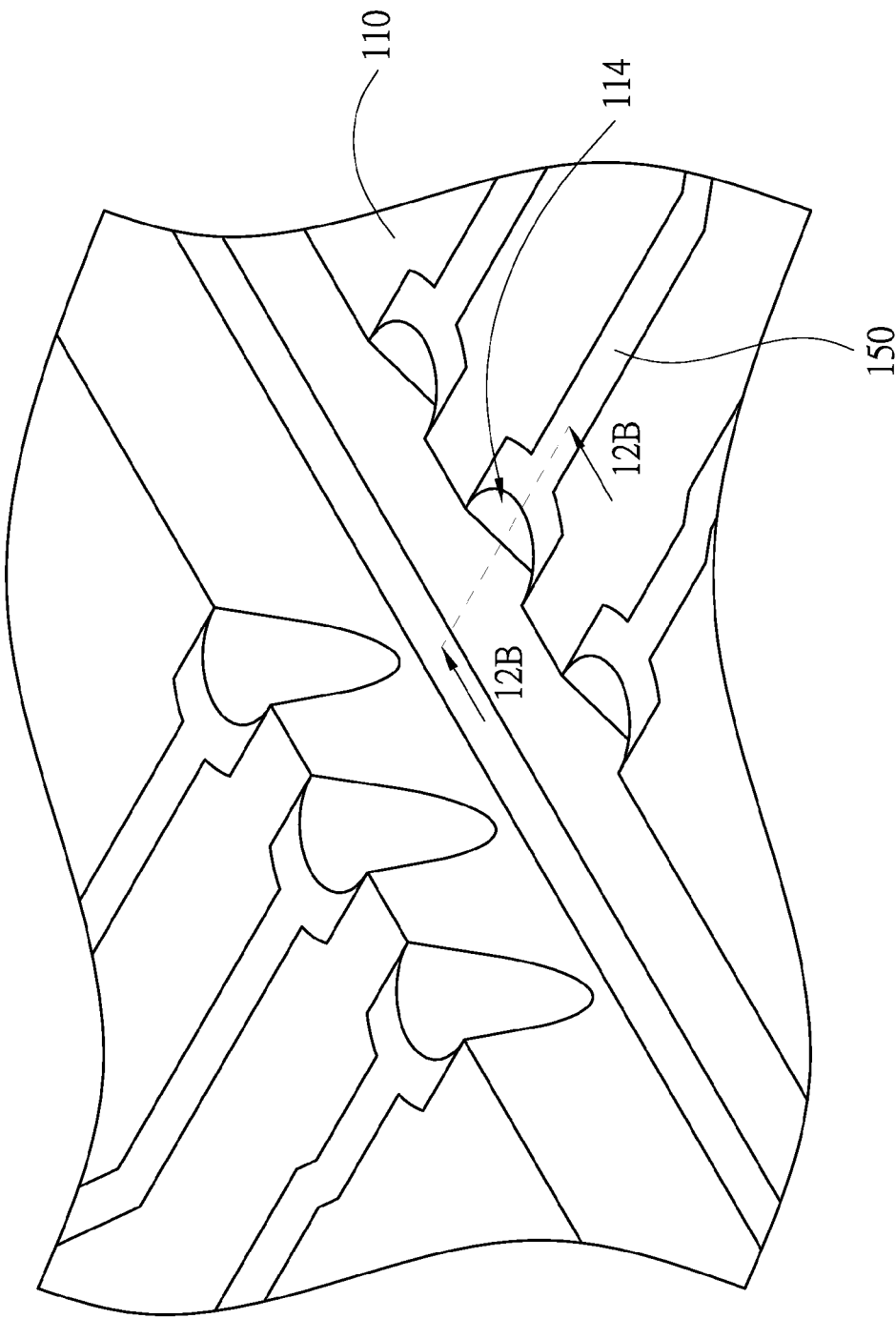


Fig. 12A

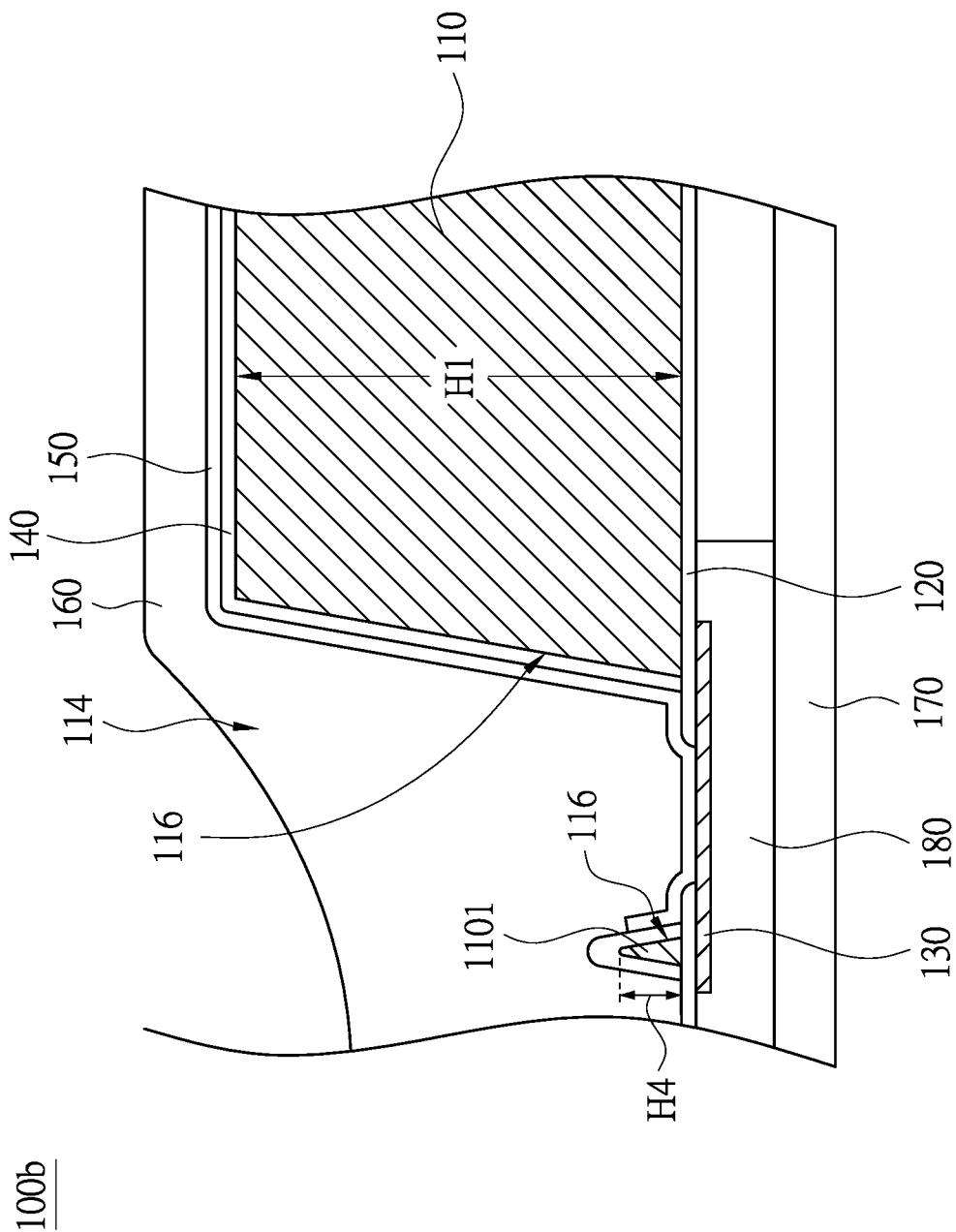


Fig. 12B

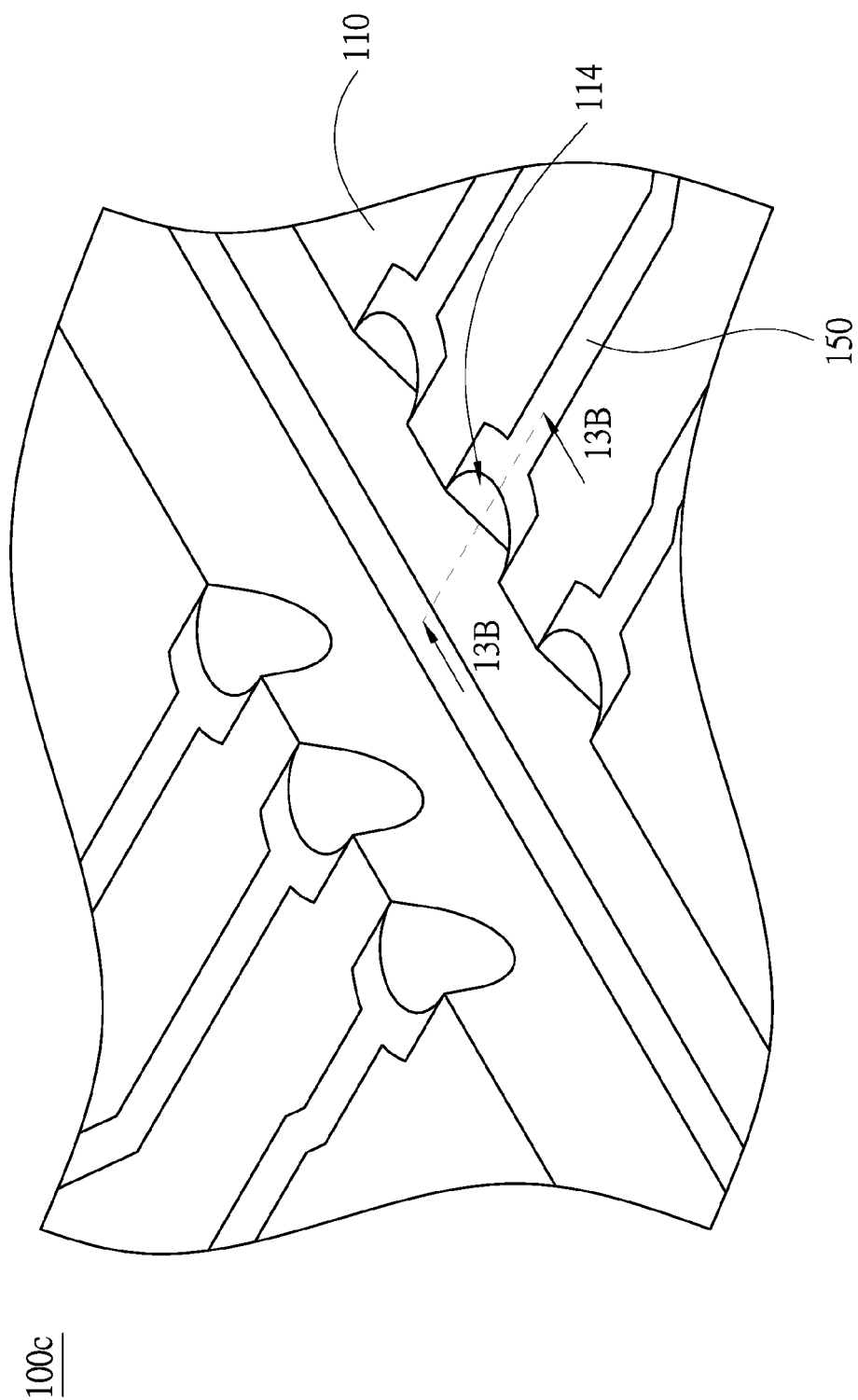


Fig. 13A



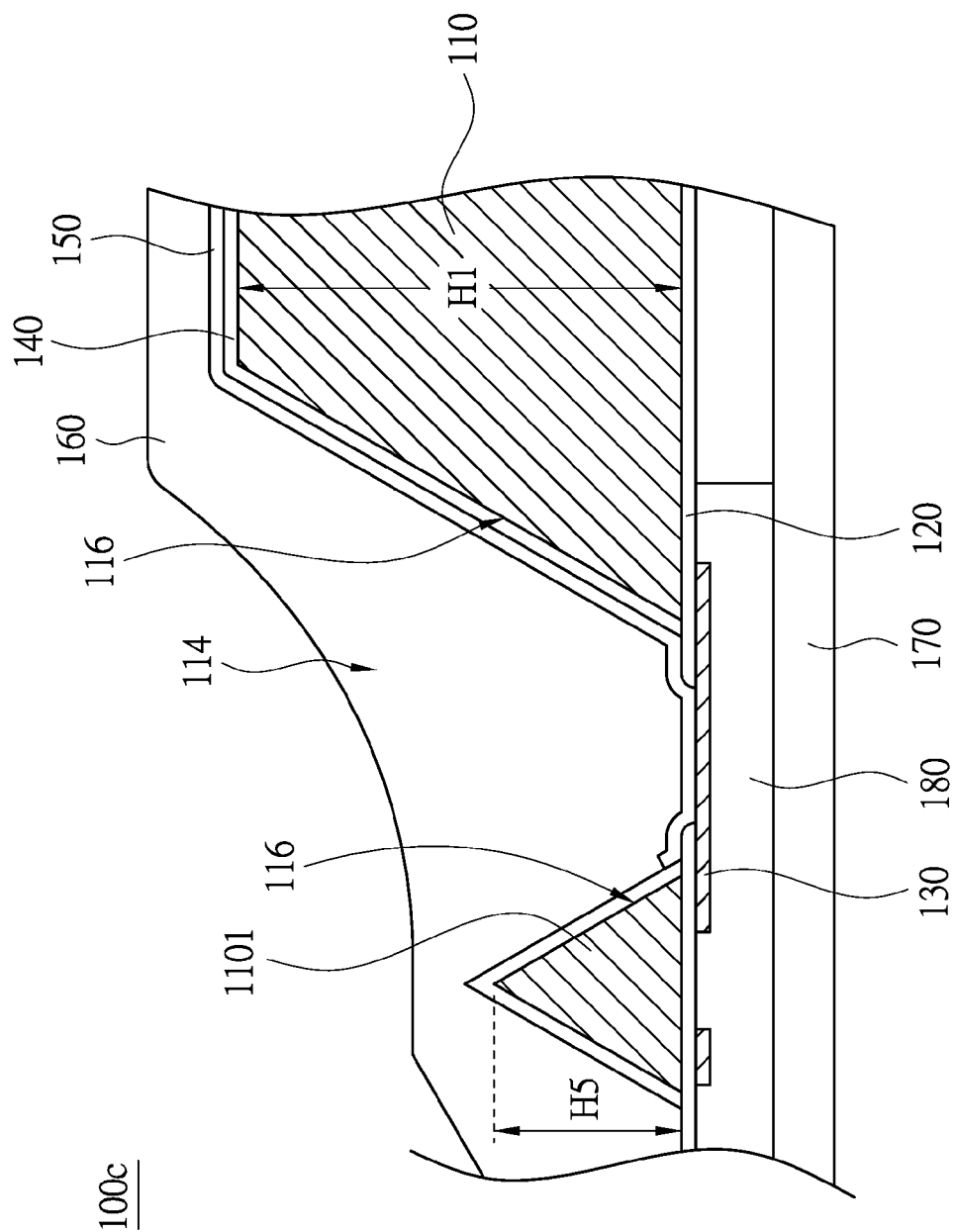


Fig. 13B

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# MANUFACTURING METHOD OF SEMICONDUCTOR STRUCTURE

## RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application is a Divisional Application of the application Ser. No. 14/464,570, filed Aug. 20, 2014, which claims priority to U.S. provisional Application Ser. No. 61/868,324, filed Aug. 21, 2013, all of which are herein incorporated by reference.

## BACKGROUND

### 1. Field of Invention

The present invention relates to a semiconductor structure and a manufacturing method thereof.

### 2. Description of Related Art

A conventional semiconductor structure may include a chip, landing pads, a dielectric layer (e.g., SiO<sub>2</sub>) and a redistribution layer (RDL). In general, when the semiconductor structure is manufactured, the dielectric layer is used to cover a wafer which is not cut yet to form plural chips for protecting the electronic elements on the wafer. The electronic elements may be image sensors.

Thereafter, a patterned photoresist layer may be formed on the surface of the wafer facing away from the dielectric layer, in such a way that the surface of the wafer above the landing pads that is in the dielectric layer is not covered by the photoresist layer. As a result, the wafer and the dielectric layer that are above the landing pads may be removed by an etching process, such that vertical channels are formed in the wafer and the dielectric layer, and the landing pads may be exposed through the channels. Subsequently, the redistribution layer may be formed on sidewalls of the wafer and the dielectric layer surrounding the channels and the landing pads, such that the redistribution layer can be in electrical contact with the landing pads.

However, the surface of the wafer facing away from the dielectric layer is substantially perpendicular to the sidewalls of the wafer surrounding the channels, and the sidewalls of the dielectric layer surrounding the channels are perpendicular to the landing pads. As a result, the redistribution layer is apt to be broken at connection positions between the surface of the wafer facing away from the dielectric layer and the sidewalls of the wafer surrounding the channels, and connection positions between the sidewalls of the dielectric layer surrounding the channels and the landing pads.

## SUMMARY

An aspect of the present invention is to provide a semiconductor structure.

According to an embodiment of the present invention, a semiconductor structure includes a chip, a protection layer, a landing pad, an isolation layer, and a conductive layer. The chip has an image sensor and a hollow region. The protection layer is located on the surface of the chip and covers the image sensor. The protection layer has an opening aligned with and communicated with the hollow region. The caliber of the opening is smaller than the caliber of the hollow region. The caliber of the opening is gradually increased in a direction toward the hollow region, and the caliber of the hollow region is gradually decreased in a direction toward the opening, such that the first sidewall of the protection layer surrounding the opening and the second sidewall of the chip surrounding the hollow region are oblique surfaces. The

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landing pad is located in the protection layer and exposed through the opening. The isolation layer is located on the first and second sidewalls and the surface of the protection layer adjacent to the first and second sidewalls. The conductive layer is located on the isolation layer and covers the landing pad. The conductive layer is in electrical contact with the landing pad.

In one embodiment of the present invention, an included angle between the first sidewall and the landing pad and an included angle between the second sidewall and the protection layer are acute angles.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the semiconductor structure further includes a passivation layer. The passivation layer covers the conductive layer.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the semiconductor structure further includes a light transmissive element and a supporting layer. The supporting layer is between the light transmissive element and the protection layer. A space is formed among the light transmissive element, the supporting layer, and the protection layer.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the semiconductor structure further includes a color filter. The color filter is disposed on the surface of the protection layer facing away from the chip, and is located in the space. The color filter is aligned with the image sensor.

Another aspect of the present invention is to provide a manufacturing method of a semiconductor structure.

According to an embodiment of the present invention, a manufacturing method of a semiconductor structure includes the following steps. (a) A wafer structure is provided, and the wafer structure has a wafer and a protection layer covering the wafer. (b) A patterned photoresist layer is formed on the surface of the wafer facing away from the protection layer. (c) The wafer is etched to form a plurality of channels in the wafer, such that the protection layer is exposed through the channels. (d) The protection layer is etched to form a plurality of openings aligned with the channels, such that a plurality of landing pads in the protection layer are respectively exposed through the openings and the channels, and the caliber of each of the openings is gradually increased in a direction toward the corresponding channel. (e) A plurality of side surfaces of the wafer surrounding the channels are etched, such that the channels are expanded to respectively form a plurality of hollow regions. The caliber of each of the hollow regions is gradually decreased in a direction toward the corresponding opening, and the caliber of each of the openings is smaller than the caliber of the corresponding hollow region.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the manufacturing method of the semiconductor structure further includes: an isolation layer is formed on a plurality of first sidewalls of the protection layer surrounding the openings, a plurality of second sidewalls of the wafer surrounding the hollow regions, the landing pads, and surfaces of the protection layer adjacent to the first and second sidewalls. The isolation layer is patterned to remove the isolation layer located on the landing pads.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the manufacturing method of the semiconductor structure further includes: a conductive layer is formed on the isolation layer and the landing pads, and the conductive layer is in electrical contact with the landing pads.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the manufacturing method of the semiconductor structure further includes: a passivation layer is formed to cover the conductive layer.

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In one embodiment of the present invention, the wafer structure has a light transmissive element and a supporting layer between the light transmissive element and the protection layer, and the manufacturing method of the semiconductor structure further includes: a die preparation process is used to dice the passivation layer, the wafer, the protection layer, the supporting layer, and the light transmissive element.

In the aforementioned embodiments of the present invention, after the channels are formed in the wafer, the protection layer is etched to form the openings aligned with the channels. Thereafter, the side surfaces of the wafer surrounding the channels are etched, such that the channels are expanded to respectively form the hollow regions. The aforesaid two etching processes can expose the landing pads through the openings of the protection layer and the hollow regions of the wafer. When the protection layer is etched, each of the openings of the protection layer is gradually increased in a direction toward the corresponding channel. When the side surfaces of the wafer is etched, the caliber of each of the hollow regions of the wafer is gradually decreased in a direction toward the corresponding opening of the protection layer, and the caliber of each of the openings is smaller than the caliber of the corresponding hollow region.

As a result, the conductive layer is prevented from being broken at connection positions between the surface of the wafer facing away from the protection layer and the sidewalls of the wafer surrounding the hollow regions, and connection positions between the sidewalls of the protection layer surrounding the openings and the landing pads.

It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are by examples, and are intended to provide further explanation of the invention as claimed.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention can be more fully understood by reading the following detailed description of the embodiments, with reference made to the accompanying drawings as follows:

FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view of a semiconductor structure according to one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a partial enlarged view of the semiconductor structure shown in FIG. 1;

FIG. 3 is a flow chart of a manufacturing method of a semiconductor structure according to one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view of a photoresist layer shown in FIG. 3 when being formed on a surface of a wafer;

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view of the wafer shown in FIG. 4 after being etched;

FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view of a protection layer shown in FIG. 5 after being etched;

FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view of the side surfaces of the wafer shown in FIG. 6 after being etched;

FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view of first and second sidewalls, and the surfaces of the protection layer adjacent to the first and second sidewalls shown in FIG. 7 after an isolation layer is formed;

FIG. 9 is a cross-sectional view of the isolation layer and landing pads shown in FIG. 8 after a conductive layer is formed;

FIG. 10 is a cross-sectional view of the conductive layer shown in FIG. 9 after being covered by a passivation layer;

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FIG. 11A is a perspective view of a semiconductor structure according to one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 11B is a cross-sectional view taken along line 11B-11B shown in FIG. 11A,

FIG. 12A is a perspective view of a semiconductor structure according to one embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 12B is a cross-sectional view taken along line 12B-12B shown in FIG. 12A;

FIG. 13A is a perspective view of a semiconductor structure according to one embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 13B is a cross-sectional view taken along line 13B-13B shown in FIG. 13A.

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Reference will now be made in detail to the present embodiments of the invention, examples of which are illustrated in the accompanying drawings. Wherever possible, the same reference numbers are used in the drawings and the description to refer to the same or like parts.

FIG. 1 is a cross-sectional view of a semiconductor structure 100 according to one embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 2 is a partial enlarged view of the semiconductor structure 100 shown in FIG. 1. As shown in FIG. 1 and FIG. 2, the semiconductor structure 100 includes a chip 110, a protection layer 120, a landing pad 130, an isolation layer 140, and a conductive layer 150. The chip 110 has an image sensor 112 and a hollow region 114. The protection layer 120 is located on the surface of the chip 110 and covers the image sensor 112 for protecting the image sensor 112. The protection layer 120 has an opening 122 aligned with and communicated with the hollow region 114 of the chip 110. Moreover, the caliber R1 of the opening 122 is smaller than the caliber R2 of the hollow region 114. The caliber R1 of the opening 122 is gradually increased in a direction D1 toward the hollow region 114, and the caliber R2 of the hollow region 114 is gradually decreased in a direction D2 toward the opening 122, such that the first sidewall 124 of the protection layer 120 surrounding the opening 122 and the second sidewall 116 of the chip 110 surrounding the hollow region 114 are oblique surfaces. As a result, an included angle  $\theta 1$  between the first sidewall 124 and the landing pad 130 and an included angle  $\theta 2$  between the second sidewall 116 and the protection layer 120 are acute angles.

The landing pad 130 is located in the protection layer 120 and exposed through the opening 122. The isolation layer 140 is located on the surface 111 of the chip 110, the first sidewall 124 of the protection layer 120, the second sidewall 116 of the chip 110, and the surface 121 of the protection layer 120 adjacent to the first and second sidewalls 124, 116. The conductive layer 150 is located on the isolation layer 140 and covers the landing pad 122 that is exposed through the opening 122, such that the conductive layer 150 may be in electrical contact with the landing pad 130.

By the design of the opening 122 of the protection layer 120 and the hollow region 114 of the chip 110, the first sidewall 124 of the protection layer 120 and the second sidewall 116 of the chip 110 are oblique surfaces. Therefore, the conductive layer 150 may be prevented being broken at connection positions between the surface 111 and the second sidewall 116 of the chip 110, and connection positions between the first sidewall 124 of the protection layer 120 and the landing pad 130.

In addition, the semiconductor structure **100** may further include a passivation layer **160**, a light transmissive element **170**, a supporting layer **180**, and a color filter **190**. The passivation layer **160** covers the conductive layer **150** to prevent moisture and dust from entering the semiconductor structure **100**. The supporting layer **180** is between the light transmissive element **170** and the protection layer **120**, such that a space **175** is formed among the light transmissive element **170**, the supporting layer **180**, and the protection layer **120**. The color filter **190** is disposed on the surface of the protection layer **120** facing away from the chip **110**, and is located in the space **175**. The color filter **190** is aligned with the image sensor **112** of the chip **110**. After a light enters the light transmissive element **170**, the light may pass through the color filter **190** and is detected by the image sensor **112**.

As shown in FIG. 1, the chip **110** has a protruding structure **1101** adjacent to the right side of the hollow region **114**. The shape of the protruding structure **1101** is triangle, but the present invention is not limited in this regard. The thickness **H1** of the chip **110** adjacent to the left side of the hollow region **114** is greater than the height **H2** of the protruding structure **1101**. That is to say, the second sidewall **116** of the chip **110** at the left side of the hollow region **114** is higher than the sidewall **116** of the chip **110** at the right side of the hollow region **114**. In this embodiment, the passivation layer **160** completely covers the hollow region **114**.

In this embodiment, the chip **110** may be an image sensing element, a microelectromechanical system (MEMS) component, a calculating processor, etc. The chip **110** may be made of a material that includes silicon. The chip **110** may be one of plural chips formed from a wafer after a die preparation process is performed with respect to the wafer. The protection layer **120** and the passivation layer **160** may be silicon oxide, such as  $\text{SiO}_2$ , but the present invention is not limited in this regard. The landing pad **130** and the conductive layer **150** may be made of a material including aluminum, copper, or other conductive metals. The light transmissive element **170** may be a glass plate, and the supporting layer **180** may be made of a material including epoxy. However, in another embodiment, the light transmissive element **170** and the supporting layer **180** may be made of other materials, and the present invention is not limited in this regard.

It is to be noted that the connection relationships of the elements described above will not be repeated in the following description, and aspects related to the manufacturing method of the semiconductor structure **100** will be described in the following description.

FIG. 3 is a flow chart of a manufacturing method of a semiconductor structure according to one embodiment of the present invention. In step **S1**, a wafer structure is provided, and the wafer structure has a wafer and a protection layer covering the wafer. Thereafter in step **S2**, a patterned photoresist layer is formed on the surface of the wafer facing away from the protection layer. Next in step **S3**, the wafer is etched to form a plurality of channels in the wafer, such that the protection layer is exposed through the channels. Thereafter in step **S4**, the protection layer is etched to form a plurality of openings aligned with the channels, such that a plurality of landing pads in the protection layer are respectively exposed through the openings and the channels, and the caliber of each of the openings is gradually increased in a direction toward the corresponding channel. Finally in step **S5**, a plurality of side surfaces of the wafer surrounding the channels are etched, such that the channels are expanded to

respectively form a plurality of hollow regions. The caliber of each of the hollow regions is gradually decreased in a direction toward the corresponding opening, and the caliber of each of the openings is smaller than the caliber of the corresponding hollow region.

In the following description, the aforesaid steps of the manufacturing method of the semiconductor structure will be described. Since the chip **110** shown in FIG. 1 is formed from a wafer after a die preparation process is performed with respect to the wafer, a wafer **110a** which is not cut yet to form plural chips **110** is shown in the following description.

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view of a photoresist layer **210** shown in FIG. 3 when being formed on the surface **111** of the wafer **110a**. A wafer structure **200** shown in FIG. 4 is provided, and the wafer structure **200** has the wafer **110a** and a protection layer **120** covering the wafer **110**. Thereafter, the photoresist layer **210** may be formed on the surface **111** of the wafer **110a** facing away from the protection layer **120**. Subsequently, the photoresist layer **210** is patterned to form plural openings **212** that are respectively aligned with plural landing pads **130**.

FIG. 5 is a cross-sectional view of the wafer **110a** shown in FIG. 4 after being etched. As shown in FIG. 4 and FIG. 5, after the patterned photoresist layer **210** is formed on the surface **111** of the wafer **110a**, the wafer **110a** not covered by the photoresist layer **210** may be etched. As a result, a plurality of channels **113** respectively aligned with the landing pads **130** may be formed in the wafer **110a**, such that a protection layer **120** above the landing pads **130** may be exposed through the channels **113**.

FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional view of the protection layer **120** shown in FIG. 5 after being etched. As shown in FIG. 5 and FIG. 6, after the wafer **110a** forms the channels **113**, the photoresist layer **210** is removed. Thereafter, the protection layer **120** may be etched to form a plurality of openings **122** respectively aligned with the channels **113**. During the etching process, the protection layer **120** is laterally etched, such that the landing pads **130** in the protection layer **120** are respectively exposed through the openings **122** and the channels **113**, and the caliber **R1** of each of the openings **122** is gradually increased in a direction **D1** toward the corresponding channel **113**. As a result, the first sidewalls **124** are oblique surfaces.

FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view of the side surfaces **115** of the wafer **110a** shown in FIG. 6 after being etched. As shown in FIG. 6 and FIG. 7, after the protection layer **120** is etched, the side surfaces **115** of the wafer **110a** surrounding the channels **113** may be etched, such that the channels **113** are expanded to respectively form a plurality of hollow regions **114**. The caliber **R2** of each of the hollow regions **114** is gradually decreased in a direction **D2** toward the corresponding opening **122**. As a result, plural second sidewalls **116** are oblique surfaces. Moreover, the caliber **R1** of each of the openings **122** is smaller than the caliber **R2** of the corresponding hollow region **114**.

FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view of first and second sidewalls **124**, **116**, and the surfaces **121** (see FIG. 2) of the protection layer **120** adjacent to the first and second sidewalls **124**, **116** shown in FIG. 7 after an isolation layer **140** is formed. As shown in FIG. 7 and FIG. 8, after the hollow regions **114** of the wafer **110a** are formed, an isolation layer **140** may be formed on the surface **111** and the second sidewalls **116** of the wafer **110a**, the surfaces **121** of the protection layer **120** adjacent to the first and second sidewalls **124**, **116**, the first sidewalls **124** of the protection layer **120**, and the landing pads **130**. Thereafter, the isolation layer

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140 may be patterned to remove the isolation layer 140 located on the landing pads 130. As a result, a structure shown in FIG. 8 is obtained.

FIG. 9 is a cross-sectional view of the isolation layer 140 and the landing pads 130 shown in FIG. 8 after a conductive layer 150 is formed. As shown in FIG. 8 and FIG. 9, after the isolation layer 140 is patterned, the conductive layer 150 may be formed on the isolation layer 140 and the landing pads 130, such that the conductive layer 150 is in electrical contact with the landing pads 130.

FIG. 10 is a cross-sectional view of the conductive layer 150 shown in FIG. 9 after being covered by a passivation layer 160. As shown in FIG. 9 and FIG. 10, after the conductive layer 150 is formed on the isolation layer 140 and the landing pads 130, the passivation layer 160 may be covered on the conductive layer 150 for protecting of the conductive layer 150, the wafer 110a, and the landing pads 130. The wafer structure 200 further has a light transmissive element 170 and a supporting layer 180 that is between the light transmissive element 170 and the protection layer 120. Subsequently, a die preparation process may be used to dice the passivation layer 160, the wafer 110a, the protection layer 120, the supporting layer 180, and the light transmissive element 170 along line L, such that the wafer 110a is diced to form the chip 110 (see FIG. 1). As a result, the semiconductor structure 100 shown in FIG. 1 can be obtained.

FIG. 11A is a perspective view of a semiconductor structure 100a according to one embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 11B is a cross-sectional view taken along line 11B-11B shown in FIG. 11A. As shown in FIG. 11A and FIG. 11B, the semiconductor structure 100a includes the chip 110, the protection layer 120, the landing pad 130, the isolation layer 140, and the conductive layer 150. In this embodiment, the heights of the second sidewall 116 of the chip 110 surrounding the hollow region 114 are substantially the same. That is to say, the thickness H1 of the chip 110 adjacent to the right side of the hollow region 114 is equal to the height H3 of the protruding structure 1101 adjacent to the left side of the hollow region 114. The passivation layer 160 is only disposed in a portion of the hollow region 114, such that a space is formed between the passivation layer 160 and the conductive layer 150 that is on the landing pad 130. Moreover, the shape of the protruding structure 1101 is trapezoid.

FIG. 12A is a perspective view of a semiconductor structure 100b according to one embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 12B is a cross-sectional view taken along line 12B-12B shown in FIG. 12A. As shown in FIG. 12A and FIG. 12B, the semiconductor structure 100b includes the chip 110, the protection layer 120, the landing pad 130, the isolation layer 140, and the conductive layer 150. In this embodiment, the heights of the sidewalls of the chip 110 surrounding the hollow region 114 are different. For example, the second sidewall 116 of the chip 110 at the right side of the hollow region 114 is higher than the second sidewall 116 of the chip 110 at the left side of the hollow region 114. The passivation layer 160 completely covers the conductive layer 150.

As shown in FIG. 12B, the shape of the protruding structure 1101 is triangle. The thickness H1 of the chip 110 adjacent to the right side of the hollow region 114 is greater than the height H4 of the protruding structure 1101 adjacent to the left side of the hollow region 114. In this embodiment, the passivation layer 160 completely covers the hollow region 114.

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FIG. 13A is a perspective view of a semiconductor structure 100c according to one embodiment of the present invention. FIG. 13B is a cross-sectional view taken along line 13B-13B shown in FIG. 13A. As shown in FIG. 13A and FIG. 13B, the semiconductor structure 100c includes the chip 110, the protection layer 120, the landing pad 130, the isolation layer 140, and the conductive layer 150. In this embodiment, the inclinations of the sidewalls of the chip 110 surrounding the hollow region 114 are greater than that shown in FIG. 12B.

Although the present invention has been described in considerable detail with reference to certain embodiments thereof, other embodiments are possible. Therefore, the spirit and scope of the appended claims should not be limited to the description of the embodiments contained herein.

It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that various modifications and variations can be made to the structure of the present invention without departing from the scope or spirit of the invention. In view of the foregoing, it is intended that the present invention cover modifications and variations of this invention provided they fall within the scope of the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A manufacturing method of a semiconductor structure comprising:

- (a) providing a wafer structure, wherein the wafer structure has a wafer and a protection layer covering the wafer;
- (b) forming a patterned photoresist layer on a surface of the wafer facing away from the protection layer;
- (c) etching the wafer to form a plurality of channels in the wafer, wherein the protection layer is exposed through the channels;
- (d) etching the protection layer to form a plurality of openings aligned with the channels, wherein a plurality of landing pads in the protection layer are respectively exposed through the openings and the channels, and a caliber of each of the openings is gradually increased in a direction toward the corresponding channel; and
- (e) etching a plurality of side surfaces of the wafer surrounding the channels, such that the channels are expanded to respectively form a plurality of hollow regions, wherein a caliber of each of the hollow regions is gradually decreased in a direction toward the corresponding opening, and the caliber of each of the openings is smaller than the caliber of the corresponding hollow region.

2. The manufacturing method of the semiconductor structure of claim 1, further comprising:

- forming an isolation layer on a plurality of first sidewalls of the protection layer surrounding the openings, a plurality of second sidewalls of the wafer surrounding the hollow regions, the landing pads, and surfaces of the protection layer adjacent to the first and second sidewalls; and
- patterning the isolation layer to remove the isolation layer located on the landing pads.

3. The manufacturing method of the semiconductor structure of claim 2, further comprising:

- forming a conductive layer on the isolation layer and the landing pads, wherein the conductive layer is in electrical contact with the landing pads.

4. The manufacturing method of the semiconductor structure of claim 3, further comprising:

- forming a passivation layer to cover the conductive layer.

5. The manufacturing method of the semiconductor structure of claim 4, wherein the wafer structure has a light

transmissive element and a supporting layer between the light transmissive element and the protection layer, and the manufacturing method of the semiconductor structure further comprises:

using a die preparation process to dice the passivation 5 layer, the wafer, the protection layer, the supporting layer, and the light transmissive element.

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